



RAIDERS DOWN RANGE



Volume 1 Issue 11

Diary of the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team

September 1, 2005

IA and CF investigate mosque bomb

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

SAMARRA, Iraq – Iraqi Army soldiers, with support from Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment investigated an explosion that demolished a wing of a mosque in the city of Samarra August 25.

The explosion, which happened on Aug. 23, was so large that it left the roof of the two-story structure on the ground. The ordnance had to be placed inside the building to get the effect seen by the Soldiers when they arrived on the scene, said Lt. Col. Mark Wald, 3-69 Armor commander. "Our assessment of the explosion in the room was that it had to be put there by somebody. There are iron grates on every window, so there was no way to throw an explosive in there, and there was no way to drive a vehicle in there, so we know it wasn't a (vehicle borne improvised explosive device.)"

Entering the mosque was a sensitive subject, as Coalition Forces are forbidden to do so. This was a joint IA and CF mission, but CF Soldiers were unable to gain access to the building without the IA.

"We wanted to integrate the IA because we didn't want to just go busting in (the mosque)," said Sgt. Michael Hendricks, a 3-69 Armor personal security detachment noncommissioned



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

IA soldiers gather to prepare to enter a wing of a mosque Aug. 25 that was destroyed by an explosion Aug. 23 in Samarra.

officer and Wald's gunner. "We weren't allowed to go into the mosque, so we wanted blessing from higher. I think we needed that to go in there."

"It is much more acceptable for the IA to enter the mosque," said Maj. Quinton Arnold, 3-69 Armor deputy commander.

The IA and CF Soldiers had specific reasons for wanting to enter the mosque.

"We specifically wanted to investigate one wing of the mosque that was demolished," Arnold said.

"We wanted to see what caused the explosion and if there were any bodies trapped," Hendricks said. "We also wanted to make sure, since it was such a big explosion, that the mosque wasn't being used to make bombs or harbor terrorists."

With the level of destruction caused by the blast, it was difficult to gather evidence from the site or come to a conclusion about the incident.

"There was no way to tell if there were any bodies," Arnold said. "It has been 48 hours since the blast, and there is no odor. We questioned the imam, but I don't see that there is any more investigating we can do short of removing rubble. I don't really have any evidence to pursue."

Being able to work with the IA is an asset for missions such as this one, Arnold said. Securing the sight was a joint CF and IA effort, with the IA being primarily responsible for entering the mosque.

"The IA and CF jointly cordoned the block to provide security," Arnold said. "They're definitely an asset. They bring something extra to the fight because they can communicate with the people."

IP catches criminals in early morning roundup

Staff Sgt. Thomas Mills
1st BCT PAO

Iraqi Police conducted a massive raid August 21 in Baiji, Iraq netting 10 detainees. Approximately 500 Iraqi Police from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Emergency Police Battalions, raided several houses in Baiji targeting people suspected of criminal activity in the area.

The operation was planned and executed by the Iraqi Police said Capt. David Zickafoose, Iraqi Police Services Officer-in-Charge, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty. Soldiers from 1st BCT's Company B, 2nd

Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment were on hand to help with outer ring security, but that was only a support role, Zickafoose said. The mission was entirely an IP operation.

"They chose the targets, they chose the date, they chose the time," Zickafoose said. "The only thing we did was provide an outer cordon."

In the past the EPPBs have relied more heavily on Coalition Forces. In recent missions, however, the IP's have taken much more control over their operations.

"They've become more independent," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Wettstein, 1BCT IP's non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "Before this operation the IP's weren't as efficient in their search methods, but they have improved greatly."

They have improved so much, Zickafoose said, that they are asserting themselves more and more in the process of planning, including planning how CF are used in the support role. "They were coming close to telling us how they wanted it done," he said. "That's actually a really good thing."

Zickafoose added that although the IP has been conducting operations independent of CF input for some time, this particular operation was different. "The unique thing about this raid is it's a three battalion operation," Zickafoose said. He said the amount of planning and coordination in a raid like this is quite complicated. "That's actually pretty impressive," Zickafoose said.

These raids are not necessarily aimed at anti-Iraqi forces and insurgents. "They look for criminals," Zickafoose said. Often, he said, the murderers and kidnapers also turn out to be insur-

gents.

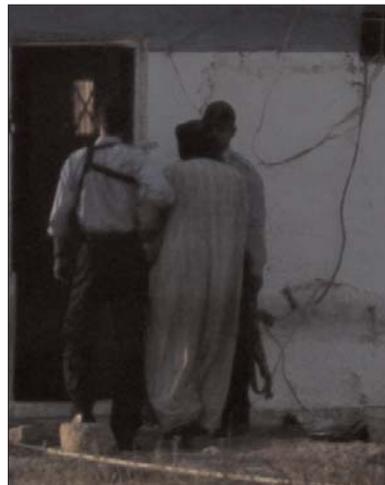
The IP's gathered information on their targets using undercover officers like police in the States do. "Everything they have back in the States they have here," Zickafoose said.

Aside from having an infantry company to support them, the IP's also coordinated both Army attack helicopters and Air Force fighters for aerial support.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas Mills

An Iraqi Police officer from the Salah Ad Din Emergency Police Battalions escorts a detainee at a Tikrit Iraqi Police station. The detainee was a suspected criminal caught during an early morning raid August 21 in Baiji, Iraq.



Iraqi Police from the Salah Ad Din Emergency Police Battalions escort a detainee into a holding cell at a Tikrit Iraqi Police station.

Lane Down Range

The Army is my family, I could just choke them

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

I have heard Soldiers called a band of brothers. Nothing could be more true about the men and women serving together in Iraq.

But any of us who grew up with siblings know we didn't always get along with our flesh and blood. I can't tell you how many times I was in a blind rage ready to choke my little brother or sister. They are my family though. If anybody outside of the family threatened them, I would defend them with my life.

I have always considered myself a hard worker. At the tender age of 13, I had a small business going door to door mowing grass. I built a nice collection of G.I. Joe action figures and vehicles with the proceeds of my business.

My darling brother would lie awake at night and dream of getting his grubby

paws on my collection. See, I had the toys in formation with their weapons on a shelf in my room.

My brother would offer to do favors for me just to be close to the Joes. I could see his eyes haze over and grow wide when he was near them.

I kept my room locked. One weekend, I went on a fishing trip by myself, and spent the night camping in the woods. Upon my return home, I parked my bike in the yard. As I was walking up the steps, I saw a sword from my Storm Shadow figure laying in the dirt. I felt a small amount of bile rise in my throat, and ran directly to my room. Sure enough, my brother had illegally gained entry to my quarters and ravaged my collection. In the back yard, our dog had a fighter jet between his paws and was happily gnawing away. Needless to say, my sweet brother was in the den sitting on the other side of my father to avoid my



operation. My dear brothers are infamous for pilfering these goods from me when I am away. They can't help it, they just love me so much they feel like what is mine is theirs.

If familiarity breeds contempt then I am the epitome of contemptuousness. I lay awake at night and listen to the firing of automatic weapons and the screams of victory outside my window. Fortunately, these are not real enemy weapons or real

heroes' screams, but my room mates playing Halo 2 until four in the morning. I try to find it in my heart to get out of bed and go yell at them, but I love them and I know they are just trying to blow off steam.

We all try to be civil, but we all want to choke each other at one time or another. Our leaders are like our parents, and when they give us orders during our personal time, we give them a piece of our mind, albeit long after they have left the room. We are truly a band of brothers, and an Army of one.

One thing I wish the Army and my brothers would do is keep away from my drinks, stop making noise, turn the lights off, don't grab the last Gatorade and stop banging on my door at all hours asking me for electrical gadgets.

This will never happen, and I know I will love these people for the rest of my life, just like my family. Let me at 'em!

Chaplain's Corner

Flexibility is the key to keeping your sanity

Chaplain Mark Nordstrom
1st BCT Chaplain

When we were kids we used to play with Mr. Gumby - the little green man that could be endlessly and mercilessly bent and twisted and contorted. He would never complain and we would laugh at the positions we would force on him.

It would be nice if our spiritual and emotional capabilities were like Mr. Gumby. Some soldiers and family members think we are made this way. In fact, soldiers have a saying when faced with unreasonable pressures and change. "Semper Gumby" they say, a play on the Marine motto. "Always Flexible" is a good translation.

Since we are not made like Mr. Gumby, how do we develop the emotional and spiritual resilience to go the distance, to face continuing challenges at home and while deployed?

Most of us are good for one or two good days of extreme challenge, and we generally are able to rise to the occasion. The problem, as I understand it, is how do we continue to function when we've used up those one or two goods days long ago?

Two ways I suggest are 1) finding someone you



trust that you can talk to and 2) in that process, the development of spiritual partnership to face the next day, the next challenge, the next need to exercise flexibility in your life.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, I had picked out the guy I wanted to go to when things got real tough.

I had intentionally built a shelter before the storm hit. And the storm did hit. I have not been that intentional this time around, thinking, "Oh this isn't high intensity combat" like last time. I was mistaken; this is a high intensity deployment, over a prolonged period of time.

What prepares you for the continuous challenges of separation, whether you are managing the house and kids without your mate or trying to keep focused on the mission while you are concerned about things at home?

We must learn to be intentional about maintaining our spiritual resilience.

The combat stress guys are clear when they say

that talking about it in the right place and time is prescriptive for prevention of long term emotional issues. More simply put, the tank will fill up if you don't empty it out on a regular basis. It won't stop the challenges you are encountering, but it will create space in your heart and soul to deal with the next day, the next event, the next disappointment and challenge.

Maybe you are way ahead of me on this, and you've got someone you talk to, a skilled friend who will listen without trying to solve all of your problems. It may not be possible to talk everyday, but you can build a shelter by building friendship and trust now. Having a group of friends that will pray for you and not just give you advice is very valuable as well.

The Church, it seems to me, has known about all this for a long time. That's why confession and absolution, the fellowship of community and worship, spiritual formation, and spiritual accountability are so important.

Sitting alone, quiet and even crying are also great tools for maintaining your resiliency, by the way!

So, stay Semper Gumby, with friends who help you stay flexible.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Overwatch

Pvt. Jeremiah Johnson, a Company B, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment squad automatic weapon gunner from Carrolltown, Pa. watches a street in Samarra from a rooftop during guard August 27.

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**You're not
invulnerable.
All vehicles are
at risk.**





Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

(Left to right standing on stage) Football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers, Fox announcer Leann Tweeden, comedians Colin Quinn and Jeffrey Ross and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers throw gifts to an audience of servicemembers and civilians during a USO tour visit to FOB Speicher August 17.

USO comes to FOB Speicher

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – The Uniformed Services Organization stopped at FOB Speicher on their tour that was part of a farewell to Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The guests on the tour included Football Hall of Fame inductee Gale Sayers, Fox Television announcer Leann Tweeden, comedians Jeffrey Ross and Colin Quinn and Myers.



Gen. Richard Myers opened the show by greeting the audience and introducing the celebrities.

Leann Tweeden got up on stage next. She explained that her father was in the military, and she had always held a respect for men and women in uniform.

Following Tweeden was Sayers, who talked football with the audience, and discussed the careers of a few current professional players.

Comedian Ross came on stage next. One of

the first things he did was to show the crowd the size of his stomach. After exposing his rotund belly, he carried the crowd into an uproar with his improvisational style of comedy. Those who have been to a comedy club know not to sit too close to the stage, or they will become the subject of the comedian's jokes. Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division commander, was sitting in the first row, and was noticed more than once by Ross, who sought Taluto's approval and repeatedly asked him to smile or laugh.

Quinn of Saturday Night Live fame took the stage after Ross. Quinn poked fun at subjects such as religion and politics. Near the end of his act, he brought a roll of laughter from the crowd with his opinion of why the United States was at war in Iraq.

After the acts, the entertainers got on stage together, opened up bags and threw gifts to the audience such as hats, t-shirts and miniature footballs.

While the entertainers did not have much time, they each went to a corner of the gym and stood by patiently posing for photographs and signing pictures.

Servicemembers lined up to get a photo with their favorite celebrity and get a magazine or football signed.



Leann Tweeden talks to servicemembers in the audience about her reasons for visiting them in Iraq before introducing the remaining entertainers Aug. 17.



Comedian Jeffrey Ross proudly displays the results of his physical training workout to the audience during his act.



Colin Quinn kneels on stage while explaining the Coalition Forces' reason for entering Iraq during his performance for servicemembers during a USO tour that visited FOB Speicher August 17.

IA gets much needed medical supplies

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Along with fighting insurgents, one of the Coalition Forces’ main missions is assisting Iraqis in rebuilding their country and training Iraqi Security Forces.

Iraqi soldiers, like CF Soldiers, have a need for medical treatment. Iraqi Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division were donated medical supplies by the 42nd Infantry Division Medical Supply Office on Forward Operating Base Speicher.

The supplies were donated after 1st Lt. Claudia Tascon, 42nd Inf. Div. DMSO officer-in-charge visited the 1st Bn., 1st Bde. 4th IAD medical clinic and saw a great need for medical supplies, and decided to do something about it.

“I talked to the Soldiers running the clinic, found out what they needed and I ordered it,” Tascon said. “It took about two months for it to get here.”

The supplies currently inventoried in the DMSO warehouse are for the deployed CF Soldiers, so to help the Iraqis, Tascon said she needed to find a



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Maj. Mike Moore, commander for Company E, 50th Main Support Battalion, 42nd Inf. Div., watches as Iraqi Army soldiers of 1st Bn., 1st Bde. look through boxes of supplies donated by Coalition Forces at FOB Speicher August 24.

way to get the Iraqis their own supplies.

“Technically everything that comes through here is for Soldiers,” Tascon said. “The United States Army Medical Material Center Europe puts out a free issue list. I looked on the list and ordered the things I saw a need for. Legally the stuff on that list can be given to the Iraqis.”

“Lt. Tascon was able to work through the system and find an issue sheet that

would help get excess medical equipment to them, instead of it just going to waste at (Logistic Support Area) Anaconda or someplace else,” said Maj. Mike Moore, commander of Company E, 50th Main Support Battalion, 42nd Inf. Div.

CF Soldiers who work with the IA soldiers came out to help pick up the supplies. The two groups work closely together in almost all other areas, and the

mission today was no different

“We train these guys day in, day out,” said Sgt. 1st Class Pablo De Jesus, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Military Transition Team Tikrit Joint Coordination Center noncommissioned officer in charge. “We’re part of their team and they’re part of our team. We’re in the process of getting them ready to take over the sector. Today is just another one of those things, lending a helping hand so these guys can come out and pick up medical supplies.”

“Due to the nature of the IA soldiers’ job, the need for medical supplies was great. The medical supply Soldiers understood that it would help and not hurt the Coalition Forces or the Iraqi Army.”

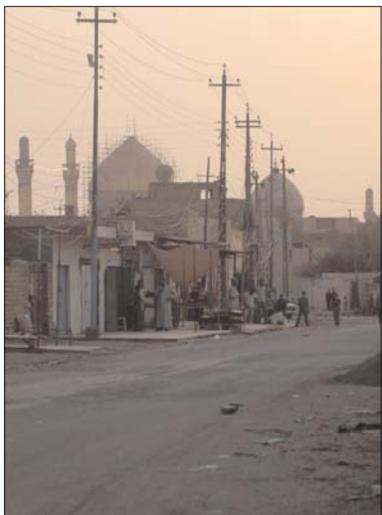
“This is for a unit that on a weekly basis takes four or five casualties,” Moore said. “They basically had no supplies. Compared to what their partner unit had, it was really a shame. We can get (the supplies) out to the people that can use it before it expires. This is a win for both sides. We don’t waste equipment, and they get the equipment that they really need when they really need it.”

Welcome to Samarra



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Spc. Shim Welch, a Company B, 3-69 Armor team leader and a native of Asheville N.C., watches the sun rise over the city of Samarra from a rooftop.



The Great Mosque stands above the buildings on a street in Samarra. The mosque and the minaret can be seen from most places inside the city.



Samarra is built on the side of the Tigris River. There is much vegetation, unlike most of Iraq, which is far from water and mostly desert.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard as a patrol enters a building during a search in Samarra.



Two Bradley Fighting Vehicles race down a street in Samarra on the way to get supplies to take to Patrol Base Uvanni.



The Spiral Minaret in Samarra is silhouetted against a setting sun.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard on the back of an Iraqi Army truck in Samarra, watching an adjoining street for insurgents.

CF helps Iraqis get on the ball

Sgt. Matthew Acosta
22nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq – Gone are the days when a military force would invade another country, devastate it, leave it in ruins, and abandon the lifeless aftermath to an uncertain future.

Today, there are many aspects of fighting a modern-day war; one of those is to help rebuild what was damaged in the conflict. Coalition Forces are now focusing on rebuilding Iraq, a country plagued by years of war and political and economic unrest, despite still waging war on the terrorists.

Besides construction projects and economic infrastructure reorganization, some programs exist to help one of the most important activities in Iraq – soccer.

"Besides combat operations, another part of rebuilding Iraq is to give attention to Iraq's youth services and organizations," said Lt. Col. Todd Wood, commander, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Liberty. "Soccer is the national sport here and it's very important to these people."

The previous civil affairs unit had started donating money to a local soccer stadium in Tikrit for refurbishment and maintenance. However, seeing the Salah Ad Din Provincial Soccer League struggling to maintain as a functioning league, the incoming civil affairs unit decided to "get the ball rolling" for them, a civil affairs officer said.

"Things weren't going so well for the existing soccer league here," said Capt. Christopher Ortega, civil affairs officer, 2-7 Inf. "So we decided to use money donated from a private American business to purchase thousands of dollars worth of official uniforms and distribute them to the 25 soccer teams in the provincial

league, to give them a jumpstart."

The civil affairs team coordinated the purchasing of uniforms and equipment through a supplier in Baghdad, and distributed it to the teams at a ceremony held at the Al Alam Soccer Stadium in Tikrit, Aug. 17.

Crowds gathered around the stadium to see the massive amount of newly purchased soccer gear stacked in boxes along the sideline of the playing field.

As part of the ceremony, two teams from the league were issued their uniforms early and played a soccer game using the newly acquired gear.

Wood said it was great to see the Iraqis play the game in high-quality, official uniforms they normally might not have.

After the match, the team managers and sponsors lined up to get their team's gear— complete uniforms to include soccer balls, soccer shoes, towels and gear bags.

"To see the excitement and appreciation on their faces as they played the game just made me feel good being a part of it," said Spc. Daniel Sterett, civil affairs, 2-7 Inf. "It also felt good knowing we gave (the children) something to do to get them off the streets and maybe inspired them to set goals for themselves."

Ortega said the entire league is Iraqi-run and they are confident the league will function as planned with their newly equipped teams.

Although this war on terror is not fought on a soccer field, keeping a child off the streets by giving him options may help keep him from getting himself into a bad situation, which may aid in the fight against the insurgency.

"If we keep the kids off the streets by keeping them occupied and happy doing something they love," said Spc. Charles Richardson, civil affairs, 2-7 Inf., "then there is less of a chance they will end up doing bad things in town or getting into trouble."



Sgt. Matthew Acosta

Thousands of dollars of soccer equipment was laid out on a soccer field in Tikrit, to be donated to 25 teams belonging to a league and sponsored by the local security forces. The money for the equipment was donated by a private business in the United States and all of the soccer equipment was purchased in country on the Iraqi economy.

IA conducts solo humanitarian mission

Sgt. Matthew Acosta
22nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq – "I thank Coalition Forces for all you have done for us, training and conditioning my men to get them where they are now- able to plan and execute independent operations," said Col. Dakhal Hassan Mohmoud, commander, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Since the war in Iraq has begun, Iraqis have been aiding in the war on terror, providing intelligence to Coalition Forces as well as taking an active part enlisting in the new Iraqi Army; some of them soldiers of the former regime.

Iraqi Army soldiers have now become proficient in conducting combat operations, and executed an operation using a battalion of Iraqi troops, August 16.

"Due to intensive training by American forces, the 1st Bn., 1st Bde. soldiers are now proficient enough to plan and conduct independent operations on the battalion level," said Lt. Col. Todd Wood, commander, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Liberty.

These Iraqi soldiers have been training and conducting operations combined with Coalition Forces since the effort to stand up the Iraqi Army began. While developing into a fighting force, they were working toward training, planning and conducting independent operations as part of the handing over the country's security from the Coalition Forces to the Iraqi Army.

"The battalion developed a list of people they wanted to question," Wood said. "They also developed a plan of action, rehearsed the mission and executed the mission successfully, according to the plan."

The Iraqi Army intelligence personnel began gathering intelligence on terrorist activity in and around the main and alternate supply routes in



Sgt. Matthew Acosta

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division distribute food, toys and supplies to the people of Tikrit, Iraq, to start building a good relationship with the people in the area.

Tikrit.

"According to our intelligence sources, the target was a neighborhood where several old regime Iraqi Army officers lived who are suspected of planting improvised explosive devices on the main supply routes," said Iraqi Army Capt. Mueen Shehan, intelligence officer, 1st Bn., 4th IAD.

For the first time since the war started, an Iraqi battalion-sized element conducted independent operations backed up by Coalition airpower and fire support.

"They haven't developed artillery assets yet," Wood said. "And they couldn't communicate with the air support so if they needed that support, they would have coordinated that through our (liaison officers)."

Wood said they compiled a list of ten people they were looking to detain, and because of the swift execution of the operation they were able to get information on eight of the suspects, and detained the other two. They also confiscated several small arms during the operation.

The operation started early Aug. 16 and successfully ended a few hours later with no reported injuries to personnel, or damage to private property.

After the operation all 38 Iraqi vehicles and 375 Iraqi soldiers paraded through Tikrit, showing the people they were a formidable force that could protect the people and inspire their confidence in a unit that lives in the city they operate in, Wood said.

"We wanted to show (the terrorists) who was in power," Dakhal said.

Coalition Forces agreed on the historical significance of the day.

"(The parade) was a great display because any previous mission the Iraqis conducted were of smaller elements and usually at night when no one could witness," Wood said. "And I'm sure it had a positive impact on the people of Tikrit as well as any of the folks out there that are involved in terrorist activity."

The Iraqi soldiers continued to celebrate by hosting a celebratory lunch where the soldiers discussed the mission and what a huge historical event for this was for them.

The Iraqi battalion will continue to conduct company and battalion-level operations within Tikrit and surrounding areas in an effort to keep terrorists at bay.

"This operation is just the start of the Iraqis taking over," Dakhal said. "And we will not (allow) any insurgents to enter Tikrit. They will not operate freely or they will be in danger."

Dakhal said since Iraqi soldiers have been involved more with the people of Tikrit, they have been very helpful with intelligence information on terrorist activity and have even asked the soldiers for assistance in dealing with personal problems.

He added that without the support from locals, they would have "a more difficult time finding success."

"Everyone will remember this day," Dakhal said. "Finally today we see what all the hard training (the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry has) done for us; thank you (Lt.) Col. Wood, for this great day to celebrate."

Remember the fallen

1/11 Soldiers killed in IED attack

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, Iraq – During a quick reaction force call to a situation near Bayji, Iraq, four Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry were killed in an insurgent attack. Spc. Nathan E. DeTemple, Spc. John Kulick, Cpl. Gennaro Pellegrini Jr. and Sgt. Francis J. Straub died when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. All were members of the same company in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Here is a collection of thoughts and memories given by Soldiers who worked with them.



Courtesy photo

Detemple smiles in his room at FOB Summerall. Detemple was 19 years old when he was killed.

Spc. Nathan E. DeTemple

Detemple came into the platoon late in the deployment, and his age and looks gave most of his team an impression of someone who was too young to be in Iraq. Detemple was able to change that impression.

"At 19, DeTemple may have been a boy in age (compared to most of us here), but unquestionably a man by all other accounts," said 1st Lt. Hasan Fersner, Detemple's platoon leader. "Almost from the moment of his arrival in Iraq, months later than everyone else, DeTemple was just as equally loved and respected as everyone else. With a naturally inviting disposition and overwhelmingly positive outlook on just about everything, it was almost impossible to ever view him as the new guy. Spc. Detemple's uncanny work ethic and fearless drive to excel were an inspiration to us all."

"Nate was a mid-tour replacement who looked like a scared kid when we first got him," said Spc. Felix Schmieder, a member of DeTemple's platoon. He very quickly and easily integrated into our platoon and became one of the guys."

"I had the privilege of being Nate's squad leader for the short time he was with us in Iraq," said Sgt. Sean Snell, DeTemple's squad leader. "I couldn't have been more impressed with a 19 year old kid. He was more like a 25 year old man. He was mature beyond his years, and showed a genuine interest in making a difference in Iraq. After you're here for eight months, that ideal seems to slip out of your mind, so it was refreshing to have it renewed by a new Soldier."

DeTemple proved his worth to the platoon on his first mission outside the wire.

"My favorite memory of DeTemple is from his first mission with the platoon," Fersner said. "The first time I'd ever even met him was during my operations order for the mission and all I'd said to him then was hello. I remember him looking too young for the Army, let alone, war. I also remember wondering whether he should've been going out so soon, having just arrived only a day or two earlier. His squad leader felt it best, so that's what we did...and I couldn't have been happier. On his first mission, a raid we conducted in search of (anti-Iraqi forces) personnel and contraband, DeTemple was personally responsible for the finding of a fairly large weapons cache. The home that he'd found it in had already been searched and we were just about to leave the premises when DeTemple, who'd never

stopped searching, called to our (his squad leader and me) attention a (rocket-propelled grenade) he'd just located in an outside shed. A much more thorough search ensued, leading to the seizure of the largest cache the platoon had ever found. I don't think I've ever been as proud of a Soldier."

DeTemple was a quiet person, whose leaders were wary of putting him behind the wheel of a vehicle while inside the wire.

"We called him 'Nasty Nate,' which couldn't have been further from his true demeanor," Snell said. "He was a quiet kid who took some prodding before he truly spoke up. We also called him 'Crash' because in the first 2 months he was here, he crashed two humvees on the FOB. He was a great driver outside of the FOB, but I guess he couldn't drive well when he was running errands."

It took some time for DeTemple's fellow Soldiers to warm up to him, but when they did, they found him to be a nice guy.

He was, flat out, the slowest eater ever," said Spc. Felix Schmieder, a member of DeTemple's platoon. "If he came down to chow the same time as us, we'd all finish and he would be into his second bite. PUNCHY (Cpl. Gennaro Pellegrini) always used to yell at him to eat his food, and he'd always complain that he wasn't hungry. Everyone else would yell at him and tell him he wasn't allowed to talk until he finished his vegetables. He always managed to eat his cookies, though. Anyways, one day at lunch I decided to stay back and talk with him. He turned out to be a really nice guy who just wanted to finish college and get back to his girlfriend."

Although he wasn't with his fellow Soldiers long, they say they will miss him.

"Nate was like a little brother of many of us and I



Courtesy photo

Cpl. Gennaro Pellegrini gives the stoic look that in part earned him the nickname "Punchy."

am going to miss him tremendously," Snell said.

Cpl. Gennaro Pellegrini Jr.

Cpl. Gennaro Pellegrini Jr.'s friends remember him as hard on the outside and soft on the inside. They say he was the kind of Soldier every unit needs, a natural leader.

"Punchy, as his friends called him, was one of the best team leaders a squad leader could ask for," said Sgt. Sean Snell, Pellegrini's squad leader. "His knowledge and meticulous attention to detail were second to none. He was the kind of guy that made his unit better by just being a member. He was a very tough-nosed, hard exterior kind of guy that had a heart of pure gold. He absolutely loved kids and we talked a lot about how much he couldn't wait to get married and have a family of his own. He was definitely that guy you didn't want to run into in a dark alley, but an amazing guy to have on your side. He would stand up for anyone in his squad. Punchy made my job as a squad leader so much easier. I will miss him tremendously as a Soldier, but more importantly, as a friend."

"While Pellegrini could certainly be counted on to express his views and often confrontational opinions of how some things happened, his loyalty could

never be questioned," said 1st Lt. Hasan Fersner, Pellegrini's platoon leader. "From the outside, Pellegrini would probably appear to be a soldier that could write a book on insubordination. As his platoon leader though, I took comfort in knowing that my orders were going to be followed by Pellegrini, despite any objections from him. He was my most tactically proficient team leader and soldiers and leaders alike respected and loved him for that, if nothing else."

Soldiers who worked with Punchy were put off by him at first, but learned not to take his demeanor seriously after a while.

"We called him Punchy. No one ever took it seriously when he cursed at you, that's just how Punchy was," said Spc. Felix Schmieder, a member of Pellegrini's platoon. "Hard-nosed, gruff, he could and did come off as a jerk at first. Once you got to know him, you realized he was just a big softy at heart who was just a little more verbal about his feelings. A really good guy, hard working, whose head was always focused on the mission and nothing else when it came time for a mission."

While Pellegrini voiced his concerns about planning and mission objectives, he could be counted on to carry out his orders, no matter how hard they were.

I have known very few men who complained, cursed or just flat out argued more than Pellegrini; nor have I known many men as sincere, loving, or as trustworthy as him," Fersner said. "Pellegrini was a 'man's man' and a 'soldier's soldier.' Pellegrini, hard-nosed and gritty on the surface, was one of the kindest and most tenderhearted men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing and befriending. When life threw punches, Pellegrini countered, and when things seemed as though they just couldn't get any more confusing or unorganized, he could be counted on to make the seemingly impossible possible...with a sneer at times, but tasks were accomplished, nonetheless."

Since Pellegrini had such a rough exterior, it was hard to see the softer side of him. His peers and leaders were able to see that side through his actions more than his words.

"My favorite memory of Pellegrini is that of him handing out shoes and sandals to the poor children of a nearby village," Fersner said. "As I've mentioned, Pellegrini appears to be a very gritty and disgruntled man...but that view of him couldn't be more misleading. A noble and modest individual, Pellegrini took it upon himself to write home and have the shoes and sandals sent just so that he could distribute them to the children of the city...no one knew anything about it until they'd come. Even then, he never referred once to



Courtesy photo

Spc. John Kulick gets caught by the camera as he looks over his shoulder during a bus ride.

that as something that he did."

Spc. John Kulick

Spc. John Kulick was the kind of Soldier who took initiative, whether it was to make friends or pick up slack in the workplace; Kulick could always be counted on to do more than his share

"Kulick was an all around nice guy," said Spc. Felix Schmieder, a member of Kulick's platoon. "He was always willing to lend a helping hand, even if you didn't ask him for any help." See **KULICK**, page 7

Remember the fallen

KULICK, from page 6 "It was great having him in the platoon because it was like having two medics. He took his job seriously and was very good at what he did. He was very informative and patient and was always trying to teach us buddy aid so we could help our buddies until he could get to them. He was just a laid back guy who readily chatted up anyone around him. He knew people and had friends literally everywhere."

"One day, just after a mission that Kulick was out on, I was in the company (tactical operations center) speaking to someone," said 1st Lt. Hasan Fersner, Kulick's platoon leader. "The rest of the guys that were on the mission had gone directly to chow after the mission, but Spc. Kulick was still in the TOC. When I asked him what he was doing, he told me that he was waiting for the first sergeant to accompany him at a meeting at battalion. He was going to be presenting his fire safety plan to the staff members. In awe, I kind of just shook my head, said good luck and began walking away. I'd only taken a couple of steps when Kulick called for me and told me that he'd forgotten to give me something. He then reached into his pocket and pulled out a laminated piece of paper and handed it to me. 'I thought this might help us out a bit' he said as he handed it to me. I looked at the piece of paper and saw that it was a language card with Iraqi words and phrases on it. When I reminded him that we'd already been issued cards with words and phrases, he politely reminded me that the cards that we'd been given had words and phrases of a different dialect than the ones that we needed. He therefore took it upon himself to create new ones for everyone in the platoon. No one had asked him to and it certainly wasn't his responsibility, but Kulick had done this and so much more than can be put into words."

Other Soldiers who worked with Kulick agreed; no matter where Kulick went, he knew somebody.

"Johnnie was a 35 year-old man with the heart of an 18 year-old," said Sgt. Sean Snell, Kulick's squad leader. "Regardless of age, everyone could relate to him. He was like a big brother to many of us, giving advice and counsel through many tough situations. There isn't a person on FOB Summerall that had more friends than John. It seemed everywhere we went, John knew somebody."

Kulick had many skills that were an asset to the mission in Iraq aside from being an infantryman.

"He became our FOB's fire marshal and served as a secondary medic for our platoon," Snell said. "His civilian skills helped in Iraq tremendously."

"In addition to his general life experiences, Spc. Kulick's skills stemming from his work as fireman and (emergency medical technician) were also of great use to the unit. As mentioned above, Spc. Kulick's work as a fireman was taken full advantage of by the Task Force, when Spc. Kulick's personal time was often spent at battalion headquarters, in meetings with different staff members, creating the fire safety plan. Even more beneficial to

the platoon though, were Kulick's skills as a medic. Having Kulick in the platoon definitely gave our assigned medic a break from missions, as they usually split the duty, with Kulick sometimes pulling double duty (going on more missions) when our medic was unable to voluntarily."

Kulick had a way of making those around him feel at ease with themselves. He was always willing to listen, and had a calmness about himself that rubbed off on those who came in contact with him.

"Being around Kulick had a way of making all worries and troubles of life seem non-existent," Fersner said. "Nothing ever seemed too difficult, unfair, depressing, or worth complaining about to Spc. Kulick. 'Of course Kulick had concerns, but he was a man that would do whatever he felt necessary to mitigate or, when he could, eliminate them all together. One of Kulick's biggest concerns was the lack of awareness the unit possessed regarding fire safety. Instead of doing what Soldiers typically do, which is complain about the problem but leave the solution up to someone else, Kulick devoted his free time to establishing a sound system of dealing with and preventing fires both inside and outside of the wire. This of course, earned him the nickname Fire Safety Dude. As one of the older Soldiers in the platoon, Kulick was one that many would go to for counseling or just an open ear. He was a great listener and always had something positively reflective to say."

"He had an amazing way with words," Snell said. "John was an amazing man who would have done anything for a member of his platoon and even more for a member of third squad. I loved John like a brother and respected his opinion and advice on everything. I will miss him dearly and can't imagine Iraq being the same without him."



Courtesy photo

Straub stands by a humvee in the rain at FOB Summerall wearing his infamous grin.

Sgt. Francis J. Straub

Sgt. Francis J. Straub is remembered by his friends for his never ending, unique sense of humor. When it came to telling a story, Straub could not be beat.

"Straub was one of the funniest men I've ever

known, but without ever trying to be," said 1st Lt. Hasan Fersner, Straub's platoon leader. "As his platoon leader, I've had to answer for quite a few of Straub's antics; as annoying as they may have been at the time, it's hard not to laugh when remembering any of them. Straub was always someone that could be counted on to deliver a laugh. At anytime, you could have found Straub in the center of a group of people, telling some story that, coming from anyone else would've been too ridiculous to believe, but because it was him one would have to wonder if he'd even left some of the funnier parts of the story out."

"Straub was just Straub, there's no other way to describe it," said Spc Felix Schmieder, a member of Straub's platoon. "We called him Strauby, and a few other variations, mostly just Strauby. He was a huge goofball, to say the least. He always had the biggest wad of dip in his mouth. We always joked that he went through a whole can with one dip. He was a nice guy, but more than anything else, a huge goofball".

"Frankie Boy was one of my closest friends in this company," said Sgt. Sean Snell, Straub's squad leader. "I have known Strauby since I joined the guard in 2001. We have been in the same platoon for almost four years now. We have always hung out together on drill weekends and plenty of times on non drill weekends. He was always good for a laugh. If my squad had a class clown, it was Frank. He always kept the mood light, which was a huge help in even the toughest of situations. Frank liked to have fun and when we were off duty, that's just what he did. There aren't too many people in A Company that can say they're not personally attached to some outlandish story with Straub. He was just that guy."

While Straub loved to make fun, there was no question to his abilities as, and dedication to, being a Soldier.

"Though his ability to make people laugh will probably be what he's remembered most for, Straub's skills as a Soldier were no less admirable," Fersner said. "Fulfilling numerous positions and duties throughout the deployment, Straub's experience and versatility as a Soldier were invaluable assets that will certainly be missed. The one phrase that I remember Straub most by was one that he, more often than not, used in response to being asked to do something; 'I will, if no one else does.'"

"Frank, as a Soldier, was superb," Snell said. "He had a tremendous amount of knowledge and tried to educate the younger guys."

Straub's sense of humor led him to be a source of relief when things were going bad.

"He always seemed to find the best in every situation," Snell said. "I will miss Straub everyday for the rest of my life. He would back up anyone in his unit in a heart beat. He was one of the most loyal people I knew. I will think of him daily and my life will never be the same without him."

Artillery Soldier killed in indirect fire attack

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, Iraq – A Soldier was killed during an indirect fire attack on Forward Operating Base Paliwoda July 24.

Sgt. Christopher J. Taylor of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment was killed when he was hit by a mortar round while exiting a bunker.

Taylor is remembered as a good listener, a sound leader and someone who was, above everything else, a friend to his Soldiers.

"Sgt. Taylor was an outstanding leader," said Pfc. Edward Reitmeyer, a B Battery, 1-41 FA cannoneer. "He never hesitated to teach us anything he knew and was always there when we needed an audience. The best thing about him was that he wasn't just our (noncommissioned officer), he was our friend. He was always there to talk, and to live up the mood when things seemed to tough or too stressful. Sgt. Taylor

never complained and always kept a positive attitude no matter how hard or challenging the task was."

Taylor kept his Soldiers' spirits up with his positive demeanor. He was a family man who liked to speak about his family.

"When I think of Sgt. Taylor, I'm reminded of someone who was kind," said Sgt. Orlan Valle, a B Battery, 1-41 FA gunner. "Sgt. Taylor always had a smile. He would always tell me how much he loved his wife, and how proud he was of his children. Sgt. Taylor was full of life and energy. He was always fun to have around."

"One of the best things about him was that bright smile always on his face," said Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Robinson, a B Battery, 1-41 FA platoon sergeant. "He was two things to many people a Soldier and friend. There was not a day that Sgt. Taylor was not approachable and willing to talk about anything. He will be missed and know that he is still a Soldier in God's army."



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Christopher Taylor was killed when a mortar round fell near the bunker he was exiting July 24.

Remember the fallen

Soldiers lose lives returning to FOB

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr
1st BCT PAO

FOB SUMMERALL, Iraq – Two Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment lost their lives during an improvised explosive device attack on their vehicle near Samarra August 6.

Spc. Kurt E. Krout and Sgt. Brahim J. Jeffcoat died due to injuries sustained in the attack on their way back to Forward Operating Base Summerall during a combat logistics patrol.

Those who worked with the two Soldiers give an account of the impression Krout and Jeffcoat left on them.



Courtesy photo

Spc. Kurt E. Krout was killed on a combat logistics patrol when an IED caused his vehicle to wreck.

Spc. Kurt E. Krout

Spc. Kurt Krout was in a slot he had not gone to school for, yet he performed his duties well. He was older than most of the Soldiers in his unit, and offered his experience to those around him.

"Kurt Krout was our armorer," said 1st Lt. Kenrick Cato, executive officer for Co. A, 1-111 Inf. "He also volunteered to fill a vacancy. He never went to armorer school but knew weapons well. He made sure he read every weapons field manual that he could get his hands on. He never complained no matter how difficult the task, often volunteering for extra details. He had been around the block a couple of times and was usually the voice of reason in the (headquarters) section. He was well liked by everyone in the company.

Soldiers who met him for the first time were given a good impression of him.

"I sincerely appreciated his sense of humor and how he always had the ability to make me laugh," said Spc. Eric D Jarman II, an infantryman from Co. A, 1-111 Inf. "He did a wonderful job being who God created him to be. I will never forget him and his service and dedication to his country, unit and fellow soldiers. I look forward to seeing his smiling face again someday. Until that time comes, I will never forget him and will continue to keep his family in my prayers."

Sgt. Brahim J. Jeffcoat

Soldiers who worked with Jeffcoat remember him for three things; his love of God, his dedication to his work and his loyalty as a friend.

"Sgt. Brahim Jeffcoat was our supply sergeant," Cato said. "He volunteered to fill the position when our actual supply sergeant was unable to deploy. Jeffcoat worked hard to master his position. He was intelligent, witty, and fun loving. He loved music and to dance. He was deeply religious and spoke often of his family, his wife, and his young daughter Nyaa. He was the kind of supply sergeant who would go the extra mile to get the sol-

diers what they requested."

"I would like to thank Sgt. Jeffcoat for his friendship," Jarman said. "He was an awesome friend to have and to be with. I really appreciate the times that we spent together hanging out and just having fun. I am so glad that we also had the times we shared together in church



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Brahim J. Jeffcoat was a supply sergeant for Co. A, 1-111 Inf. He lost his life in an IED attack.

singing and worshipping our God. He shared with me his profound love for God and how he loved to sing his songs of praise unto God. Now I know he is loving the experience of being in heaven because now he can sing his song uninterrupted and as loud and long as his heart's desire. I love you brother and you will be forever missed. I know that you are in the presence of the Lord where there is fullness of joy."

Scouts attacked while on escort mission

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

SAMARRA, Iraq – While escorting explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers from the site of an improvised explosive device, three scouts and a medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment were killed.

Pfc. Timothy J. Seamans, the driver of the vehicle, Spc. Ray M. Fuhrmann, a medic, Sgt. Nathan K. Bouchard, the gunner on the vehicle and Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Doyle, the vehicle's truck commander were killed when an IED exploded underneath the vehicle they were driving Aug. 18 in Samarra.

A memorial ceremony was held at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora August 26 for



Courtesy photos

Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Doyle was killed Aug. 18 while serving as a truck commander in Samarra.

the deceased Soldiers. After the ceremony, Soldiers from the deceaseds' unit stayed behind to share memories of the fallen.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Doyle

Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Doyle was fond of Army combatives, and loved to challenge his fellow Soldiers to a match.

"Sgt. Doyle was always trying to do combatives, even though he would get beat every time," said Spc. Matthew Bratcher, an HHC, 3-69 Armor scout gunner. "No matter how many times he lost, he would always swear that he beat you."

Another one of Doyle's passions was golf. Back at Fort Stewart the sport caused him problems.

"Me and some of the guys would be going to play golf, and I would ask Doyle if he wanted to go," said Staff Sgt. Broc Kemmer, an HHC 3-69 Armor section sergeant. "He would always say he had to go back to Leah (his wife), but then he would think about it and say 'let me go get my clubs.' He was always sneaking away to play golf even though he knew his wife was going to be mad."

Soldiers who worked under Doyle said he exercised patience, even in extreme situations.

"We were out on the scout range, and he let me up on the MK-19 (automatic grenade launcher)," said Pvt. John Cupples, an HHC 3-69 Armor scout medic. "He was telling me just to aim at the targets, and I said 'roger sergeant' and let a few go. They exploded on the ground right out in front of us, and I could see the look on his face, he wasn't happy."

Doyle is survived by his wife Leah, his father John Doyle, his mother Debra Jo Doyle and his sister Cameron.

Sgt. Nathan K. Bouchard

Sgt. Nathan K. Bouchard was a man who was fond of two things; skateboarding and eating. Eating made him happy, but skateboarding got him in trouble from time to time.



Sgt. Nathan K. Bouchard was serving as a gunner on a truck when his vehicle was struck by an IED.

"We used to skate around the parking garages in Savannah," Bratcher said. "He knew all the back alleys in the place. One day we decided to skate down the on ramp. We got to going too fast and I jumped off my board, but he kept going. There was a lot of traffic that day, and a car came around the corner as he was going down the hill. He hit that thing and flew off his board."

"Bouchard loved to eat. He was one of a kind," said Noah Nunn, an HHC, 3-69 Armor supply clerk.

While out on the town, Bouchard had a way of homing in on his friends.

"He would always find you in the weirdest place and try to give you a hug," said Spc. Darrin Seamster, an HHC, 3-69 Armor medic.

Bouchard is survived by his parents John Sr. and Alida Bouchard and by his two brothers John Jr. and Sean Bouchard. See **SCOUTS**, page 9

Remember the fallen

SCOUTS, from page 8



Spc. Ray M. Fuhrmann II was serving as a medic when his vehicle was hit by an IEDblast Aug. 18.

Spc. Ray M. Fuhrmann

Spc. Ray M. Fuhrmann II was a man whose friends found him intelligent and went to him for advice about many things.

"He had a passion for his job," said Sgt. Dan Mack, a 3-69 Armor medic noncommissioned officer. "I used to rub his belly. He knew everything. He wanted to be a doctor, and he was

always studying medical books."

"He always gave everyone around him so much confidence," Seamster said. "He was always willing to help me out. He knew so much about so many things. He would always make me feel good when I was depressed or worried about something."

While many people went to him for advice, they also tried not to get into an argument with him, because they knew they would lose.

"You could never win an argument with that guy," Mack said.

"You could try to make fun of him, but he would always get you back," Bratcher said. "No matter how right you were, he would always say something and make you feel a thousand times worse than you tried to make him feel."

Fuhrmann is survived by his wife Tylea and his father, Michael Fuhrmann.

Pfc. Timothy J. Seamans

Pfc. Timothy J. Seamans was remembered for his passion of hip-hop music and his dedication to learning to be a better Soldier.

"That guy had a big heart," Kemmer said. "Ask any NCO, anytime you would get onto him you could tell by his eyes that he was taking it all in and trying to be better."

Seamans was a native of Jacksonville, Fla. and was proud of it.

"That kid had a passion for life," said Spc. Gary Charles Gray, an HHC 3-69 Armor scout gunner. "When I first met him, I found out he was from



Pfc. Timothy J. Seamans was the driver of a humvee that was hit by an IED blast Aug. 18.

Jacksonville, and he said 'we have to represent.' I know he's looking down right now saying the same thing."

Seamans was a new Soldier to the unit, and many people didn't take time to get to know him. "There was so much about that guy that a lot of people don't know," Bratcher said. "His little sister was his best friend."

Seamans is survived by his parents David and Monica Seamans and his sister Ashley Seamans.

Soldiers help to prepare their brothers in blue

Spc. Adam Phelps
22nd MPAD

TIKRIT, Iraq – Infantrymen with 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment trained some of Iraq's Provincial High Crimes unit officers Aug. 24, in Tikrit, Iraq, to properly search buildings looking for some of Iraq's high target people wanted by Coalition and Iraqi Forces.

"We will control everything here if we continue to get more training, more information on how to do the missions and do our job the right way," said Capt. Ishmael Muhammed, PHC unit commander in Tikrit.

The members of the PHC unit are eager to learn what they can in order to perform their missions better, a Coalition Soldier said.

"I think they're getting there," said Staff Sgt. Robert Young, a police liaison with Company A, 1-112 Inf., and native of Monaca, Penn. "The motivation is there with a lot of the Iraqis. For now they still need our help, but in time I believe they will function quite well."

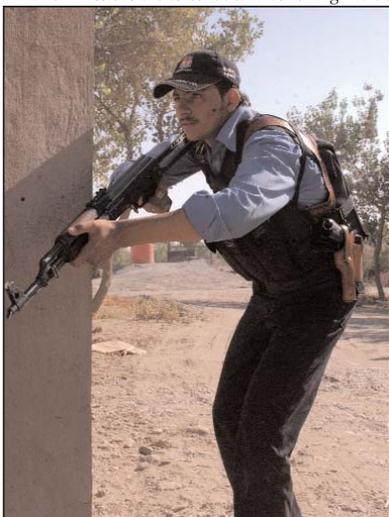
The training that the 1-112th Inf. is giving the PHC unit is set up to simulate a real mission.

"Their missions are to conduct raids for high-value



Photos by Spc. Adam Phelps

Spc. Timothy Byers and Spc. Justin Wilcox demonstrate how to enter a room and properly secure it.



A member of the Provincial High Crimes unit practices clearing a building and pulling security.

targets – people wanted by Coalition Forces and Iraqi forces," Young said. "This prepares them to go out and conduct these missions a little more safely and be more effective to accomplish their mission."

Iraqi forces find the training contributes to helping them in obtaining their objectives, Muhammed said.

"The training is very useful for us because we get more information on how to treat the people, how to deal with the terrorists and also how to deal with problems around our sector and our community," he said.

Young said one of the reasons his unit is successful training Iraqi police is the Soldiers' work in the civilian world.

"One thing that really helps is I'm a civilian police officer at home and I introduce myself that way to these guys so I think they find that common bond in policemen all over the world," he said.

"They understand I'm here to help a brother in blue," he continued. "They are very receptive to that rather than a normal Coalition Soldier."

This training will also help Iraqi forces train themselves and spread what they have learned, Muhammed

said.

"The training helps me out a lot because by this I'll be able to give the training to my guys anytime I want," he said.

"I will be able to train other people from other departments, and that will help us out a lot to control our situation," he added.

Young said that training the Iraqi police force in better tactics is one of the most important missions in Iraq.

"I believe it's the most important in Iraq at this time," he said. "Nobody wants to see the Iraqi Army patrolling the streets of Tikrit or anywhere else in Iraq, that's a policeman's job."

Use the five C's to secure an IED site.

- Confirm : the device**
- Clear : the area**
- Call : EOD**
- Cordon : the perimeter**
- Control : site access**

STAY ALIVE